

'Bodger' back with a bang

AFTER dominating much of the second half of Tuesday night's friendly against a Queens Park Rangers XI, Wycombe Wanderers took apart their celebrated opponents with a tremendous spell of footballing skill that produced three goals inside six minutes (**writes Stuart Earp**).

The man who did most of the damage was evergreen Tony Horseman. He scored two goals (one of them possibly the best of the season) and showed just what was lacking against Clapton on Saturday. Derek Gamblin too was in great form and turned on some memorable footwork at times.

Rangers included three players with first team experience this season — goalkeeper Alan Spratley, full back Ian Gillard and midfield man John Beck.

With Horseman a steadying influence upfront, Wanderers began to string some neat attacks together but Rangers packed their

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Q.P.R. XI 1

defence and there seemed to be no way through. However, after Spratley had pinched an Amos corner off his line in the 26th minute, the Blues went ahead after an incredible scramble.

Larry Pritchard, again in great form, set up the attack with a through ball to Holifield. He tried a shot which went across goal to Amos, who steered the ball against the body of Spratley, collected the rebound and thumped it against the bar. The ball came out again to Horseman who amongst a sea of mud and outstretched legs, finally put the ball over the line.

The lead was short lived, however, and three minutes later Rangers were back on level terms with a brilliantly executed goal.

Four first time passes ended with John Sanders sending through Mike French, who outpaced Delaney before taking the ball wide of Peter Spittle and firing home.

Pritchard and Delaney soon tested new 'keeper Gary Calder at the start of the second half and as centre backs Tony Tagg and Paul Kempton began to lose their command, Wycombe surged forward.

It was the sort of vintage football Wanderers played at their peak last season. Precise passing, fine running into the open spaces AND good finishing. Their pressure paid off in the 85th minute. Pritchard ran 15 yards to collect a throw-in and laid the ball off to Birdseye who centred low and hard. Amos missed his kick

but Williams got well over the ball and guided it past Calder from 15 yards.

Two minutes later it was 3-1, with a marvellous goal. Horseman showed his priceless ability to control the ball, slipped past two defenders and sent Langfield racing through. Brian's cross shot beat Calder all the way.

Number four came a minute into injury time of a match well controlled by Wycombe referee Bill Cleere. The instigator was again Pritchard, sending an arching pass to Amos on the wing. Amos crossed to Horseman, who again nipped past a couple of defenders before slamming the ball high into the net.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; I. Rundle (sub. D. Gamblin 45 mins.); D. Bullock, J. Delaney, P. Birdseye, R. Williams, A. Gane, L. Pritchard, A. Horseman, A. Amos, M. Holifield (sub. B. Langfield 45 mins.).

Q.P.R.: A. Spratley (sub. G. Calder 45 mins.); G. Williams, I. Gillard (sub. Hewson 45 mins., sub Wilson 78 mins.), A. Tagg, P. Kempton, J. Sanders (sub. R. Oliver 73 mins.), T. Spencer, J. Beck, M. French, A. Mayes, P. Everest.

Attendance: 512.